

MAKING THE GRADE

EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN
EVERY CLASSROOM



Can New York Give Pennsylvania a Path Toward Improving Teacher Effectiveness?

Teachers and policymakers in New York have reached a landmark agreement on the role of teacher evaluations in improving teacher effectiveness – an agreement that can provide Pennsylvania with a roadmap in our efforts to create more effective teachers.

The Empire State's agreement would allow student performance to account for 40 percent of a public school teacher's evaluation, while the remaining 60 percent would be measured by other criteria such as classroom observation and student or parent feedback. That's a notable shift from previous evaluation methods that put little emphasis on student growth in determining a teacher's abilities. The new agreement also provides supports to help teachers who fall short on their evaluations.

The head of New York's teachers union said the agreement reflects a key principle: "The purpose of evaluations must be to help all teachers improve and to advance excellence in our profession."

NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the new evaluation system "will put students first and make New York a national leader in holding teachers accountable for student achievement."

It's time for Pennsylvania to join the ranks of New York and other states that recognize the role of effective teachers in student success. It's time for educators, policymakers and union leaders to come to the table and do what is in the best interests of our children.

Stay tuned for more updates from **Making the Grade: Effective Teaching in Every Classroom.**

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Making the Grade: Effective Teaching in Every Classroom is Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children's project designed to create awareness about the importance of an effective teacher in every classroom and advance the public policies required to assure every child benefits from effective teaching every school day.

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Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
116 Pine Street, Suite 430
Harrisburg, PA 17101

717-236-5680 – 800-257-2030

www.papartnerships.org